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"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."
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SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 8, 1917.



FAIRMONT STORES.

FOR the past several days The West Virginian has been printing a series of sketchy articles about what may be found in the stores of Fairmont this winter together with something about the conditions under which retailing is conducted at this stage of the war. The writer of these articles was told to find out what Fairmont stores are like, and while only such parts of the report as promised to be interesting to the public which supports Fairmont stores has been published, the investigation shows that Fairmont stores, taking them as a whole, are superior to the stores in the cities of our class throughout the state and in Western Pennsylvania.

The fact that they do not do an equal amount of business, everything considered—and it is pretty generally conceded that they do not—must therefore be due to some defect in their business policy, and we suspect that the greatest trouble lies in the fact that they do not understand the vitally important matter of publicity. At all events the point upon which Fairmont stores differ most from the stores in nearby towns is that. Stores, stocks and selling organizations are pretty much alike. The wage funds that are available for the local retail trade differ in size, but so do the number of stores that divide it. Yet there are important differences in the amount of business alone. It strikes us that it would pay Fairmont retailers to club together and get some one who understands it to give them a course of lectures on publicity and its relation to sales volume.

GANG GOVERNMENT'S LATEST.

SINCE the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which can scarcely be called a Philadelphia idea, although it was given to the world from that town, the Quaker City has not until the present week made an original contribution to politics. And when it did emerge it was with an idea that deserves to be classified under the head of practical politics. Or perhaps, since it may turn out not so very practical after all, it would be well to let it go as common, or garden variety, politics.

The high cost of living, the size of their political assessments, the cutting down of the gratuities that the indulgent citizens in easier times were wont to bestow upon the guardians of the peace, together with the fact that no one knows which of two pretty tough political gangs owns the city has filled the breasts of some of the city policemen with unrest and they have organized a union, and are threatening to strike.

The thing is so entirely new that neither the heads of the city government nor the people of the town know what to do about it. Philadelphia knows how to dispose of all kinds of municipal troubles that can be classified under the ordinary political heads, but so far no one seems to be able to figure how it would develop if the unionized cops are fired and wiped off the books. And it might be added that the effect of increasing pay and doing all that the union demands is also completely obscured in darkness. Not of course what the reaction would be upon the interest of the city of Philadelphia—that scarcely is thought of at a time of such gravity—but upon the gang balance of power.

What the outcome is going to be no one can tell, and not many people outside of Philadelphia give a fig. The

RUFF STUFF
John J. has named meatless, wheatless and porkless days for West Virginians.
Judging by recent performances, he has reserved one day a week to be sans politics.
That's the day he makes his speeches.
On the days he does things he is the same old John J.
Meaning that he does what the politicians of his party want done.
Nineteen street car conductorettes have made their appearance in New York.
Wonder when the local crop will be ripe?
Jenny Rankin voted for the Austrian war resolution but she made it plain that she still thinks war is "stupid and futile."
Guards she has been hearing from back home too.
War may be all that the lady says it is; no one but the crazy German phil-

affair possesses a certain interest, however, because it shows to what a pass municipal government can come in this country under favoring circumstances.

HE NO LONGER BATTLES.

THEY used to call him Battling Bob, but after his performance of yesterday in which he walked out of the Senate before the vote on the Austrian war resolution was taken, they will have to invent another name for LaFollette.

Gronna, Norris and Vardaman, who voted against the resolution which declared that a state of war with Germany existed took their medicine and voted for the Austrian resolution, but poor LaFollette just dodged.

But after all there are many men in the same humiliating position throughout the country; some right here in West Virginia. Completely obsessed by a few fundamentally false ideas regarding individual rights, they sought to oppose their puny wills against the force of the nation. Quite naturally what happened made them suffer in their self esteem, for they have had to give way to keep from being crushed.

In LaFollette's case the fact that the charge that he made disloyal speeches is still under investigation by the Senate may have had something to do with his disinclination to go on record one way or the other on the Austrian resolution, but that, while a good excuse technically, does not prevent the incident from being quite painful to many people throughout the country who used to think highly of LaFollette, and who yet remember that a few living statesmen have been of larger benefit to the country.

Upon the people of Germany whose business it is to keep track of the trend in this country the vote will likely prove even more sobering than the adoption of the original war resolution. At that time there was enough of a fight in both branches of Congress to make even people here at home feel that America was not a unit for the war. Now no one dares to raise a voice. From a military standpoint we are only a little way in the war, but spiritually we are in it with our whole soul, and the rest is bound to come in time.

It will be pointed out by some that Fairfax Harrison, chairman of the Railroad War board, who yesterday issued a statement in which he said the roads under present direction are prepared to furnish all the transportation possible under any management, is a railroad president, but that does not necessarily take from the statement any of its essential truth. It might be possible under government control to get government shipments or coal or some other selected class of freight over the roads faster, but that kind of railroading would involve widespread and perhaps unnecessary business disturbance. The ideal thing to do in this railroad matter is to place it in the hands of the best obtainable experts and give them all the aid they need.

Governor Cornwell has issued a proclamation appointing wheatless, meatless and porkless days for this state. If the public is wise it will follow the wishes of the authorities in these matters, for while they are absolutely necessary now in order that the people of this country and our allies may have enough food, they are going to be a great help in bringing the food trusts to their senses and keeping prices down after the crisis is over.

President Wilson signed the Austrian war resolution yesterday as soon as it was adopted and it got through both houses of Congress in less than four hours. We are beginning to acquire speed in this war business. When we get going right we may make some records that will give the past masters at the art, the Prussians, a few things to think about.

Speaking of speed records, the House Postoffice committee yesterday reported the annual postoffice appropriation bill which carries \$333,000,000, a much larger amount than ever before, in less time than ever before. Spending the taxpayers' money is still the long suit of Congress.

Reports from Petrograd are to the effect that fifteen hundred Bolshevik troops have arrived in Vladivostok. That's a long ways from home, and the trip was a fruitless one at that, for the shipment of supplies from this country to Russia by way of the Pacific and the Trans-Siberian railroad was suspended as soon as it became apparent that Lenin and his gang had a grip on Russia.

A resolution has been introduced in the National House appropriating \$5,000,000 for relief work in Halifax. This is the proper way to handle this matter, for among other things it is the quickest way, and it will involve no dislocation of the plans for raising funds for various war purposes in this country.

Some of the more censorious American newspapers are pointing out that the Halifax disaster was due to stupidity of officials who permitted a deckload of benzine to be carried on a ship whose holds were filled with explosives. True that is what made the havoc possible, but it is not fair to assume that it was a result of stupidity. When there is not enough tonnage to go around and the pressure for cargo space is as great as it is now the precautions that obtain at normal times have to be abandoned in the effort to relieve the necessities of the hour.

What People Say
and Some Side Remarks
W. S. John of Morgantown who spoke on "Social Legislation" at the conference of Charities and Corrections said:
"West Virginia was the first state in the union to say by law that the idler is an unlawful economic burden, a load to be carried if he will not work. The principle is that every able bodied person really owes his best services to his parent state, for he is its son. And the amount of money or income one has makes no difference in the amount of service he owes."
In his letter of resignation to Governor Cornwell, Adjutant General John C. Bond, a former Fairmonter said:
"For nearly twenty years of more than half of my life I have been associated with the army and national guard. If in that time I have learned anything of value along military lines it occurs to me that now or at all times is the time to use such knowledge in the field. Therefore I feel that I am pursuing the proper course which necessitates the acceptance by you of my resignation."

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE
(BY CONDO)



WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP
By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.—George T. Goshorn, at one time postmaster of Piedmont, came to the Capital Thursday and next morning he was holding down a position at the Army, State and Navy buildings. Backed by the influence of her employer, Miss Arion A. Adams, stenographer in the office of Congressman Bowers, who has been ably and industriously looking after the office of the Second district's representative during the absence in Hawaii, landed this position for Mr. Goshorn. This is but one of many fair samples of how successfully Miss Adams has transacted the routine business of her employer while he has been gone. Mr. Bowers will arrive in Washington next Monday.

Lloyd Kells, of Clarksburg, is a visitor in the city. He has applied for acceptance in the aviation service, and secured the personal endorsement of Congressman Stuart F. Reed to back up his application yesterday. A bill to grant a pension of \$50 a month to Daniel W. Jones, a former long-time resident of Parkersburg, who is now living at Hot Springs, Ark., was introduced in the House by Congressman Woodyard. Mr. Woodyard also presented a set of resolutions adopted by Andrew Mather Post, No. 14, G. A. R., advocating changes in the present so-called old age pension law. Mr. Woodyard on the first day of the present session introduced a bill proposing amendments along the line favored by the veterans' organization from which the resolutions mentioned were received by him.

To grant a pension of \$40 a month to Edgar C. Martin, of Masontown, is the purpose of a bill introduced in the House by Congressman Bowers. Mr. and Mrs. Kemble White, of Fairmont, are spending a few days in Washington, stopping off here on their way home from a lengthier stay in New York.

C. J. Ramsey, of West Union, was a caller at the office of Congressman Reed yesterday. Mr. Ramsey said that he was on his way to Montgomery, Ala., to do Y. M. C. A. work at the soldiers' camp there.

The last batch of applications filed with the signal corps for young West Virginians who desire to get into the aviation branch of that service by Senator Sutherland was filed yesterday, together with his written and personal endorsement. The applicants are H. L. Bennett, of Parsons; Robert George Melcher, of Wheeling; Austin Roscoe Copen, of Elington; and Howard A. Gatty, of Huntington.

H. H. Watson, of the well known family of that name at Fairmont, has been in Washington on business, he came especially to take up some private business matters relating to coal properties with Senator Nathan Goff.

Dr. Charles R. Odgen and Dr. William Gaston, both leading physicians of Clarksburg, are Capital visitors. They called on their fellow-townsmen and congressional representatives, Hon. Stuart F. Reed yesterday.

A. J. Pleasant, Jr., of Pennsboro is here. Mr. Pleasant consulted with Senator Sutherland about enlisting in the engineer corps of the army.

E. K. Huxthal, of Roncove, who recently secured a commission in the quartermaster's department, has been ordered to duty in New York as an inspector of miscellaneous supplies.

The pension claims of Edgar Trainor, of Cario, and Mrs. Louise A. Morgan, of Fairmont, were up for consideration at the Pension Bureau yesterday, the former being called up by Congressman Reed, and the latter claim by Senator Sutherland.

Franklin R. Teter has been commissioned postmaster at Job, W. Va. Nelson E. Bonar has been designated acting postmaster at Murraysville.

A delegation of West Virginia women suffrage workers and advocates is scheduled to arrive in Washington next Wednesday morning early, and several hours later they are also scheduled to meet the two Senators and six Representatives in Congress from the State. The national suffrage amendment will be the topic up for discussion.

Arrangements have been made to hold the meeting in a large committee room on the first floor of the Senate office building just across the hallway from Senator Goff's office. Senator Goff will preside at the meeting.

While there will be a national meeting held here next week in behalf of the amendment, the West Virginians are more interested in meeting the members of the congressional delegation and lobby them for support of the amendment than they are in the national meeting. It is understood that the national suffrage organization has cut out the work that the West Virginia women must do and that is, in brief, get the West Virginia delegation in Congress lined up to vote for the submission of the amendment.

The delegation, which has up till quite recently been counted as united opposed to submission, has suffered a break in its supposed solidarity, both Senator Nathan Goff and Congressman H. C. Woodyard are now being counted as supporters. The latter a week ago in a formal interview given out, announced how the state Senator Goff has always been a stalwart advocate of the "right of petition," and he is said to regard the suffrage constitutional amendment in that light. Congressman Edward Woodyard personally favors votes for women and is on record as saying so in many speeches delivered in his district. But he is also said to regard the heavy vote cast against womanhood suffrage in West Virginia last year as somewhat in the nature of referendum instructions. In fact, that is the way it was believed up till a short time ago that all, or nearly

GEN. DIAZ, CHIEF OF VALIANT ITALIANS

all the members of the congressional delegation looked at the matter. The visiting West Virginia women will undertake to convince any members of the delegation who may still be of that opinion that they are entirely and wholly wrong.
More of a definite nature as to how the members of the delegation will vote on the suffrage amendment, will most likely result from the visit of the West Virginia women and their heart-to-heart talk with the members of the congressional delegation next Wednesday.
A length report on last winter's outbreak of poliomyelitis in West Virginia, with the epidemic at Elkins featured, the result of the study and investigation made by J. P. Leake, Bolton and B. F. Smith, all of the United States Public Health Service, is issuing from the government press and will soon be ready for distribution to those interested.
It is a length report, and shows on its face most careful and pains-taking investigation of an interesting and unusual disease in epidemic form. The three experts summarize the important points as follows:
1. Modes of spread other than by human contact are improbable. Persons and not things should receive our attention.
2. Even including all the nonparalytic cases which we could recognize direct contact with the cases themselves is responsible for only one quarter of the incidence.
3. As passive carriers adults are probably more important than children.
4. There are probably many unduring an epidemic of poliomyelitis, about as numerous as the paralytic or the recognizable nonparalytic cases, and such cases are likely to have symptoms referable in the first instance to the digestive tract.
5. Quarantine of the case for two or three weeks is long enough; but another member of the family is just as likely to be dangerous as the patient, and general intermingling, particularly contact with children should be prevented.

GEN. ARMANDA DIAZ
General Armanda Diaz is supreme commander of the Italian army. He succeeded General Cadorna and has been in command during the brilliant Italian defense along the Piave river line.

afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee Jones on Maple avenue for their daughter, Miss Ida Virginia Jones, in honor of her ninth birthday.

Plan Exchange.
Members of the Monongah Auxiliary of the Red Cross met at their work room yesterday evening to do Red Cross work and to plan for the exchange which is being held in the Monongah market this afternoon.

MONONGAH

At Thornburn School.
Students at the Thornburn public school are advertising a box supper which will be held at their school house on Wednesday evening, December 12. Featuring the program for the evening there will be a party girl contest, which is always a big drawing card. Other events will take place. The Monongah public schools on the east side of the river will have a box supper on Monday evening. The proceeds of each event will be a benefit to the schools.

A Surprise Party.
A surprise party is being held this

Personal.
Mrs. Frances Esketh was among the Monongah social visitors out of town yesterday afternoon. Thomas Talbott was in Fairmont this morning.

Willard Hall was among the Monongah business transactors to Fairmont yesterday evening. Mrs. Grover Cochran was a caller out of town yesterday evening. Leo Savati attended the meeting of the Lyceum Literary society at the Normal school yesterday evening. Miss Pauline Davis was among the local callers out of town yesterday evening. Mike McDonnell was in Fairmont for a short while this morning. Frank Martin was in Fairmont this morning as a business transactor.

When Ignorance Is not Bliss

"Phawts a bank?"
Maloney—"Well, it works like this: For instance Oi put money in and ye draw it out."
Casey—"But how does the bank make anything?"
Maloney—"Sure, they either knock down part of phwat Oi put in or short change ye on phwat ye draw out."
—Facts and Fancies.

Laugh as we may at the ignorance of Casey and his friend, knowledge of banks and their methods has been sadly lacking. Who has been to blame is an open question, and who will be to blame if this condition continues is a certainty. The banks today are doing everything in their power to help their customers. That's it—their customers—for that is what you, I or any depositor or borrower is—a customer. No longer is the path of the prospective borrower a stony one. If your proposition is sound there is hardly a limit to which a banker will not go in helping you. If you are on the wrong path, he will show you how and why and then steer you back into the straight road.

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